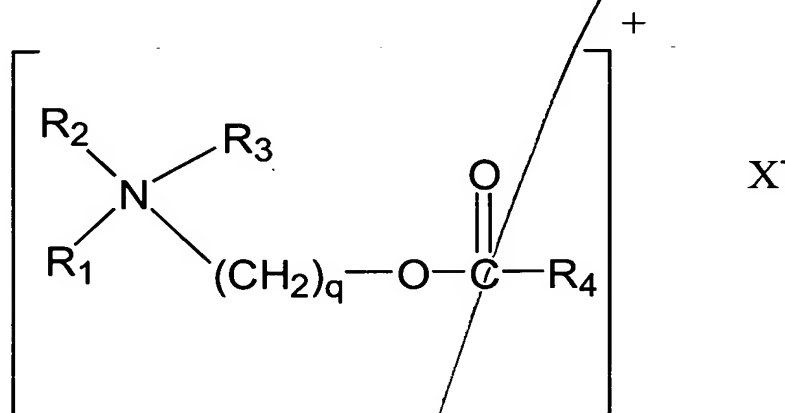


WE CLAIM:

1. A fabric softening composition comprising:
- (a) from 0.01 % to 35%, by weight, of a cationic softener;
  - (b) at least 0.001%, by weight, of a water soluble cross-linked cationic polymer derived from the polymerization of from 5 to 100 mole percent of a cationic vinyl addition monomer, from 0 to 95 mole percent of acrylamide, and from 70 to 300 ppm of a difunctional vinyl addition monomer cross-linking agent; and
  - (c) a perfume.
2. The fabric softening composition of claim 1, wherein said cationic polymer is derived from said polymerization using 75 to 200 ppm of said cross-linking agent.
3. The fabric softening composition of claim 3, wherein said cationic polymer is derived from said polymerization using 80 to 150 ppm of said cross-linking agent.
4. The fabric softening composition of claim 1, wherein said cationic polymer is a cross-linked cationic vinyl polymer.
5. The fabric softening composition of claim 4, wherein said polymer comprises a quaternary ammonium salt of an acrylate or methacrylate.
6. The fabric softening composition of claim 5 wherein said polymer comprises a quaternary ammonium salt of dimethyl aminoethyl methacrylate.
7. The fabric softening composition of claim 1 wherein the cationic softener is selected from the group consisting of esterquats, imidazolinium quats, difatty diamide ammonium methyl sulfate, and ditallow dimethyl ammonium chloride.
8. The fabric softening composition of claim 7 wherein said cationic softener is an esterquat.

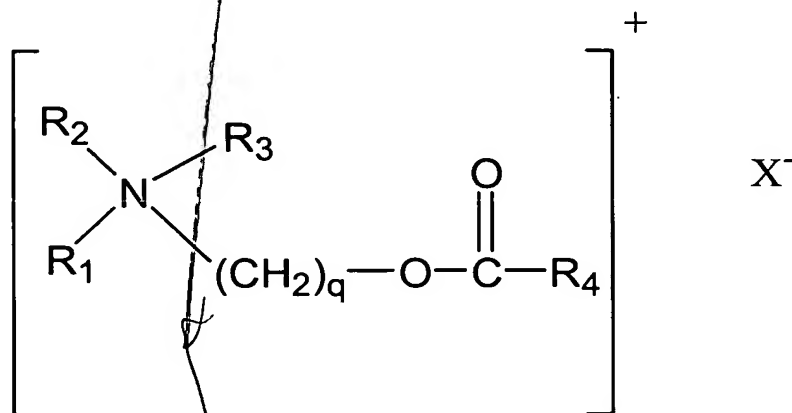
9. The fabric softening composition of claim 8 wherein said esterquat is a biodegradable fatty ester quaternary ammonium compound having the Formula:



wherein R<sub>4</sub> represents an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> represent (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>s</sub>-R<sub>5</sub> where R<sub>5</sub> represents an alkoxy carbonyl group containing from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, benzyl, phenyl, (C1-C4) - alkyl substituted phenyl, OH or H; R<sub>1</sub> represents (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>t</sub>-R<sub>6</sub> where R<sub>6</sub> represents benzyl, phenyl, (C1-C4) - alkyl substituted phenyl, OH or H; q, s, and t, each independently, represent an integer from 1 to 3; and X<sup>-</sup> is a softener compatible anion.

10. A fabric softening composition comprising:

(a) from 0.01% to 35%, by weight, of a cationic softener comprising a biodegradable fatty ester quaternary ammonium compound having the formula:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl;

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are β-C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>22</sub>-acyloxy ethyl or β-hydroxy ethyl;

5 R<sub>4</sub> is an aliphatic hydrocarbon group having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms;

q is an integer from 1 to 3; and

X<sup>-</sup> is a softener compatible anion;

(b) at least 0.001% of a water-soluble cross-linked cationic polymer derived from the polymerization of from 5 to 100 mole percent of a cationic vinyl  
10 addition monomer, from 0 to 95 mole percent of acrylamide, and from 70 to 300 ppm of a difunctional vinyl addition monomer cross-linking agent; and

(c) at least 0.001% of a chelating compound capable of chelating metal ions and selected from the group consisting of amino carboxylic acid compounds, organo aminophosphonic acid compounds and mixtures thereof.

15 11. The fabric softening composition of claim 10 wherein said cationic polymer is derived from said polymerization using 75 to 200 ppm of said cross-linking agent.

20 12. The fabric softening composition of claim 10 wherein said cationic polymer is derived from said polymerization using 80 to 150 ppm of said cross-linking agent.

13. The fabric softening composition of claim 10 wherein said cationic polymer is a cross-linked cationic vinyl polymer.

14. The fabric softening composition of claim 13 which said vinyl polymer comprises a quaternary ammonium salt of an acrylate or methacrylate.

25 15. The fabric softening composition of claim 14 wherein said polymer comprises a quaternary ammonium salt of dimethyl aminoethyl methacrylate.

16. The fabric softening composition of claim 10 wherein said chelating compound comprises an amino carboxylic acid compound.

30 17. The fabric softening composition of claim 10 wherein said chelating compound comprises an organo aminophosphonic acid compound.

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[illegible]